

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
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FOI/PA# 1366656-0

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IRON CURTAIN escapee—Mira Slovak, a former Czechoslovakian army pilot who fled to freedom in a Czech government airliner last year, climbs into a crop dusting plane in Yakima. Slovak will take up dusting in the Valley to make a living.

—Republic Photo

Flight to Freedom —

Curtain Buster To Crop Duster

By BILL CLARKE

landed his Czechoslovakian Air-

blue

*see me
a*

APR 20 1964

Self

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, SEATTLE

DATE: 4-21-54

FROM : SA W. MARK FELT

SUBJECT: MIRA SLOVAK, [REDACTED]

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Re the attached clipping from the Yakima Republic dated 4-9-54.

While there is a possibility that the reporter may have confused certain portions of the subject's story, the article reflects discrepancies which give rise to some suspicion.

Accordingly, a [REDACTED] case is being opened and assigned to SA E. P. CLARK, who is being requested to obtain details concerning SLOVAK that are available at Yakima, Washington but without extensive investigation at this juncture.

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A letter should thereupon be directed to the Bureau, pointing out that the subject is residing in this field office territory and requesting a summary of information in the Bureau files.

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[REDACTED] 2
[Handwritten notes and signatures]
Sent Clipping

DIRECTOR, FBI

May 25, 1954

SAC, SEATTLE [REDACTED]

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MIRA JOHN SLOVAK, aka MIRO SLAV SLOVAK,
MIROSLAV SLOVAK
[REDACTED]

Enclosed herewith are two copies of a newspaper item from the Yakima 'Daily Republic', dated 4/9/54, relating to the background and activity of the above-named subject who fled the Czechoslovakian Army for political asylum in the West Zone of Germany about March, 1953, and who is now located at Yakima, Washington, where he expects to be employed as a duster pilot.

In view of the subject's background, and his status as an alien, contact was made with JAMES E. SULLIVAN, Investigator, U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service located at Spokane, Washington, while the latter was in Yakima on May 10, 1954. Mr. SULLIVAN advised that in connection with a check by his office, he had on May 8, 1954, interviewed the subject and obtained the history and background hereinafter set out.

The subject is now using the name, MIRA JOHN SLOVAK, but in his native country he was called MIRO SLAV SLOVAK, and he is at present a citizen of Czechoslovakia. He was born at Cifer, Czechoslovakia, October 25, 1929, and entered the United States by U. S. Army airplane October 1, 1953. He is not aware of the exact conditions under which he entered. He stated he had been an officer in the Air Force of his country for four years. In 1951, he was sent to the Czechoslovakia Airlines as first pilot, which position he held for two years, or until he fled the country. In March, 1953, he planned with one [REDACTED] to seize a plane and fly to West Germany. He carried out this plan and asked for political asylum there. He stayed in Germany from March to September, 1953, during which time he was questioned by authorities there, and then he was flown to the United States by the U. S. Army, where he was questioned by the Army at Washington, D. C. from that date until about March, 1954, during which period of time the Army paid him between \$250 and \$270 per month. This pay was for his services in furnishing information regarding conditions in his home country.

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In response to questioning as to whether or not his surrender would have an adverse effect on his parents and brother who remain in Czechoslovakia, he replied that he did not think so, as he left home when he was 17 years of age, and has not been closely associated with them since

EPC:ije

Encls.

POST

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that time. He stated that his father works in a grain warehouse and his brother is in the Army. His father is not a Communist. He writes to his mother under an alias, and he recently received a letter from her. He is single and has the equivalent of a junior college education.

The subject stated that while he was in Washington, D. C., he saw in the paper that crop-dusting pilots were wanted in Yakima, so he came out and got the job. He added that he has not started flying yet, and his salary has not started, but he will start soon with the Central Aircraft Co. under [REDACTED] and will receive \$6 per hour while flying. At the present time he is living on money paid him by the U. S. Army and Air Force in Washington.

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The subject stated he has no relatives in the United States, but desires to make this country his home. He stated he was required to make application for membership in the Communist Party in 1948, but was not accepted until 1951, and that he held his membership until 1953. He had no information that any U. S. Government agency assisted him in securing the position in Yakima. He resided at the LaSalle Hotel in Washington, D. C. from October, 1953, until February, 1954, and from February 18, 1954, until March 31, 1954, at the Wesley Hall, 2118 "O" Street, N. W., Washington. He now resides at the Ambassador Hotel, Room 18, 220 N. Second Street, Yakima.

No derogatory information regarding the subject was located in the files of the Metropolitan Police Department, Washington, D. C., according to [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] advised that on March 10, 1954, one Mr. BATES of the U. S. House of Representatives, introduced Private Bill HR 8335 for the relief of MIROSLAV SLOVAK, to hold that he was lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States. A similar bill, Senate Bill S. 3029, was introduced 2/26/54, by Mr. DIRKSEN, and both the bills are currently pending.

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[REDACTED] stated he had interviewed [REDACTED] for Central Aircraft at Yakima who had stated the subject appeared to be a fine fellow about whom he knew nothing derogatory. [REDACTED] also interviewed [REDACTED] at the Ambassador Hotel, the subject's present residence, and [REDACTED] described the subject as quiet, well-behaved, whose associates are only those with whom he is connected in his work, and who, when he expresses himself at all, voices opposition to Communism. It was [REDACTED] comment that the subject spoke decidedly good English for one who had no previous connection with the language prior to October, 1953, which is the time the subject stated he started to study English.

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In view of the fact that the subject apparently intends to make Yakima, Washington, his residence, temporarily at least, it is requested that a summary of information in the Bureau files be furnished the Seattle Division for informational purposes in the event it is deemed necessary to initiate any investigation of the subject in the future.

C O P Y

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 08-14-2019 BY [REDACTED] ADG

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1953

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Attorney General Herbert Brownell, Jr. announced today that the five Czechoslovakian members of the so-called "freedom flight" who escaped from Red ruled Czechoslovakia last March 23 by seizing a Czechoslovak National Airlines C-47 and landing in the western zone of Germany, have been granted temporary entry into the United States.

This was done under the discretionary powers given to the Attorney General in the Immigration and Nationality Act.

The five, Miroslav Slovak, 24, pilot of the aircraft; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Bohumil Suran, [REDACTED] and 46 respectively,

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are guests of the Air Force. A sixth member of the dramatic flight from Czechoslovakia, [REDACTED] is now in Yugoslavia.

The escape was engineered by the pilot, Miroslav Slovak and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Although Slovak and [REDACTED] had independently sought a means of escape from Communist dominated Czechoslovakia as early as 1950, the freedom flight plan was not formulated until 1952. It was then that [REDACTED] joined them and the final plans were made.

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According to the plan, major responsibility for the escape became Slovak's, who was to determine a flight schedule, notify the others and work out the specific details. [REDACTED] was to act [REDACTED] for the flight once the Communist crew members had been overpowered, while

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[REDACTED] the captive crew members throughout the remainder of the flight. The plan came to a dramatic climax when the Czechoslovak National Airlines C-47 landed at the Frankfurt, Rhine-on-Main Airport

C O P Y

E. CLARK

C O P Y

on the night of March 24. Of the 25 passengers on the scheduled Prague-Brno flight, who were not part of the plot, two of them,

and Bohumil Suran, chose to stay in the West.

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C O P Y

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Seattle [REDACTED]

DATE: June 9, 1954

FROM : Director, FBI [REDACTED]

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SUBJECT: MIRA JOHN SLOVAK, aka. Miro Slav Slovak,
Miroslav Slovak, Tom Powell
[REDACTED]

Reurlet May 25, 1954.

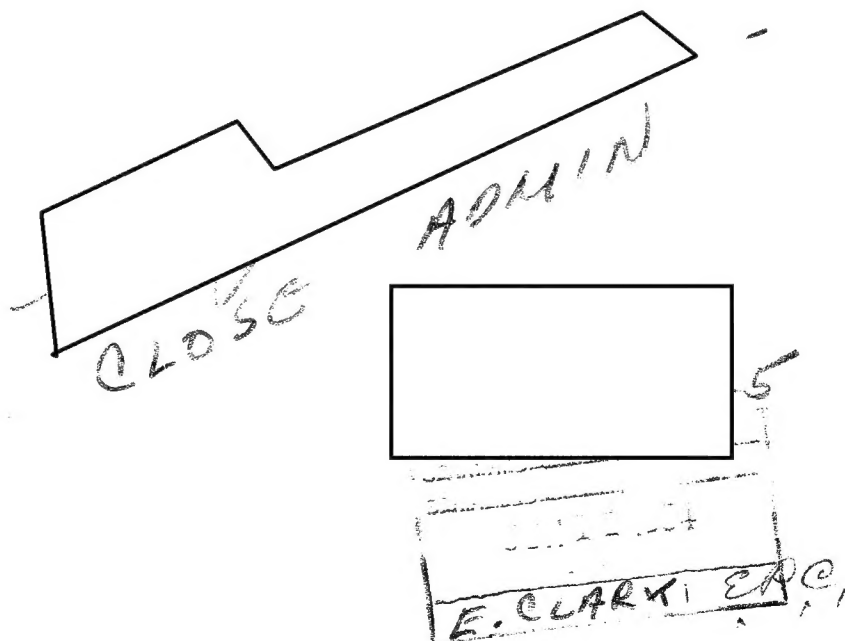
For your information there is attached hereto a copy of a release dated December 7, 1953, by United States Attorney General Herbert Brownell, Jr., containing information relating to Miroslav Slovak.

For your further information a ~~Secret~~ communication to the Bureau [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Miroslav Slovak was among several individuals who arrived on 9/28/53 at Andrews Air Force Base in a special MATS (Military Air Transport Service) plane. Slovak traveled under the pseudonym of Tom Powell. [REDACTED]

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Attachment



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COPY

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BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

NAME: SLOVAK, Miroslav
BIRTH: 25 Oct 1929, Cifer, District of Trnava, Slovakia.
MARITAL STATUS: Single
MOTHER: Name unknown, head of the Leopoldov Communal Enterprises.
EDUCATION: 1935-40, elementary school, Leopoldov.
1940-45, Slovak City Gymnasium Hlohovec.
MILITARY: Oct 1947-Mar 1953, Capt. Czech Air Force.
DATA SUBMITTED: date unknown.

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FBI - SEATTLE	

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BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

NAME: SURAN, Bohumil

BIRTH: 10 March 1907, Divnice Uhersky Brod District

CITIZENSHIP: Czech

SPOUSE: First marriage ended in divorce in 1946 and he is married again in 1949

PARENTS: Parents died in the mid-30's

BRO & SISTERS: Two brothers are farmers in Divnice, his sister is a housewife in Stitna na Vlare, Uhersky Brod District and his stepbrother is a butcher and cattle dealer in Brno

EDUCATION: 1914-1921 Attended elementary school in Jestrabi, Uhersky Brod District
1921-1929 Attended high school in Uhersky Brod
1931-1934 Attended the Dr. Benes Higher Technical School, Brno

EMPLOYMENT: 1936-Sep 1938 Civilian employee of the Land Military Command
1939-1942 Free-lanced as an architect and draftsman for various firms in Brno
1942-1944 Employed by the Building Authority of the town of Linz, Austria
Jan 1945-May 1945 Employed as designer with the Baumeister Schantl construction firm in Linz
1945-1947 Asst. at the Dr. Benes Higher Tech. School, Brno
1947-1948 Ing. Safranek & Ing. Kralik firm, Brno, Koliste
15 Nov 1948-31 Dec 1951 engineer-designer with the Stavo projekt, National Enterprise, Brno
1 Jan 1952-23 Mar 1953 engineer-designer with the Hutni Projekt, National Enterprise, Brno

MILITARY: Was taken into the army in 1935 and discharged in 1936 with the rank of Cpl.
Promoted to rank of 2nd Lt. after the end of war in 194

DATA SUBMITTED: 13 May 1953

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ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 08-14-2019 BY [REDACTED] ADG

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TO : J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: June 29, 1954

FROM : William A. Hogan, Special Assistant to the Commissioner
Immigration and Naturalization Service

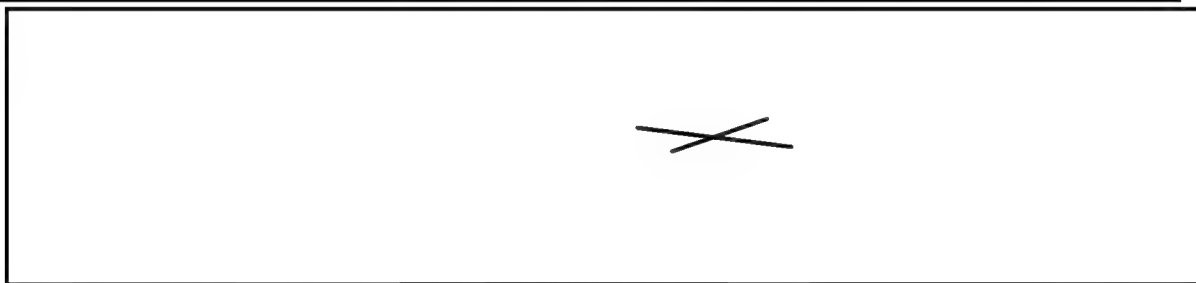
SUBJECT: Miroslav SLOVAK, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Bohumil SURAN.

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Attention: Norman W. Philcox



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It will be appreciated if you will make the appropriate name checks in this matter and submit them to this office, to my attention, with any comments you may desire to make concerning the application to admit subjects to the United States.

Enclosures

COPY

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SEARCHED	INDEXED
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OCT 17 1954	
FBI - SEATTLE	

[Signature]

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SAC, Chicago (62-96327)

October 8, 1954

Director, FBI

MIROSLAV SLOVAK

[REDACTED]

BOHUMIL SURAN

[REDACTED]

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On December 7, 1953, the Attorney General publicly announced that the five captioned individuals were Czechoslovakian members of a "freedom flight" who escaped from Czechoslovakia on March 23, 1953, by seizing a Czech National Airlines C-47 and landing it in the Western Zone of Germany, and that they had been granted temporary entrance into the United States under discretionary powers given the Attorney General under the Immigration and Nationality Act. Captioned individuals actually arrived in the United States September 28, 1953, at Andrews Air Force Base on a special MATS plane and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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However, at this time it does not appear captioned individuals have any information pertinent to the Bureau's jurisdiction, and interviews are not contemplated. The attachments are being forwarded to the appropriate offices for future reference in the event it should be necessary to interview any of these individuals.

Attachment

cc - 2 - Milwaukee (Attachment)
cc - 2 - Seattle (Attachment)

62-96327-13

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Carls

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Mira Slovak Now Flies For U.S. Capitalists

From piloting Communists in Europe to piloting one of America's foremost capitalists, all within a span of just three years. That's the story of Mira Slovak.

The former Czechoslovakian air force and airline pilot, who escaped over the Iron Curtain piloting a plane load of disgruntled Communists and several Freedom seeking friends, flew back to Yakima yesterday.

He is now working as an executive pilot for William Boeing Jr., one of America's foremost aircraft industrialists.

The 26-year-old pilot had settled in Yakima, after unsuccessfully attempting to enlist in the U.S. Air Force and in a proposed, volunteer, anti-Communist flying group. He worked as a crop dusting pilot for Baxter Air Service.

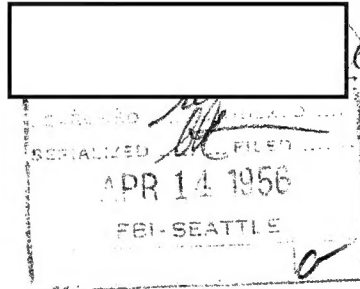
Last year he left Yakima for Seattle where he is studying the English language at the University of Washington.

He is dividing his time between his studies and his executive pilot position. He flew into Yakima, carrying a Boeing executive, Robert T. Lamson.



MIRA SLOVAK
Communism to Capitalism

Slovak has flown all over the country, in his new job, and several times into Canada. He finds it an excellent opportunity to familiarize himself with his adopted land.



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*Yakima Herald,
Yakima Wash,
4/11/56 -*

MIRA SLOVAK, who highjacked a Czechoslovakian airliner with 26 unsuspecting passengers aboard and flew it to freedom in West Germany six years ago, had a dramatic encounter last night with four who came to America with him.

The meeting was in the Moore Theater, where the "This Is Your Life" television cameras were set up to record the reunion for the nation's eyes.

IT WAS the first time the 29-year-old pilot and hydroplane driver had seen the four since they parted on a foggy airfield in West Germany on the night of March 23, 1953.

First to greet him were Mr. and Mrs. Helmut Cermak, co-conspirators with Slovak in the daring dash for freedom. With a cry of surprise, Slovak leaped from his seat to embrace the couple, then grinned and hung his head while Cermak told of his astounding herosim.

"We had planned for months to do this thing," Cermak said. "But it was all Mira—Mira who inspired us, Mira who flew the plane, Mira's own idea."

AT THE TIME of the conspiracy, Mira was a transport pilot for a Czechoslovakian airline. After the communists took over his country, he gained an acquaintance with freedom on flights to Scandinavia and by listening intently to Radio Free Europe and the Voice of America. It was during this time—when he was only 23 years old—that he made up his mind to make a run for it.

"The flight was a regularly scheduled, one-hour trip from Prague to Berno," Slovak recalled. "We took off at 7:20 p. m. And then, of course, we did not come back."

TO ALL BUT the Cermaks, the left turn to freedom was a surprise, and to many, it was not a pleasant surprise. When the flight stretched out into two hours, they realized something was amiss and began to pound on the cockpit door. Slovak then put the plane into a series of dives and climbs, sending his tormentors tumbling around the cabin.

To two of the passengers, however, the chance for freedom was irresistible. Antonin Volejnicek and Bohumil Suran both decided to try for a new life in America with Slovak and last night they greeted him with happy slaps on the back.

Others who befriended Slovak both in Germany and here were also on hand. Nick Morris, of Dallas, who



BOHUMIL SURAN ANTONIN VOLEJNICEK

taught him English; Al Baxter, of Yakima, and Bill Boeing Jr., who gave him jobs; Mrs. Frank Cech, of Seattle, who has been a second mother to him, John Boyd, District Director of the Immigration Service, who has guided his application for citizenship—all were on there to share the evening with him.

FORTUNE'S winds have scattered the five Czechoslovakians all over the country. Slovak now lives in Dallas, where he is a pilot for Continental Airlines. The Cermaks live in Stickney, Ill. Volejnicek lives in Milwaukee and Suran lives in Chicago.

SEATTLE POST
INTELLIGENCER

OCT 21 1959

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Mira Slovak--A Reunion Drama: **Czech Hero, 4 Who Fled Terror, Meet In Peace**



Warm Meeting For Freedom Seekers

MIRA SLOVAK (left) and two co-conspirators for freedom, Mr. and Mrs. Helmut Cermak, enjoy a warm embrace on the stage of the Moore Theater last night. The three, who

joined together in a daring flight to freedom from their homeland Czechoslovakia, met last night for the first time since coming to the United States.

—(Post-Intelligencer Photo.)